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## San Francisco and the Japanese Children.

Whether justly or unjustly, our national reputation for race prejudice has been strengthened by the course taken by the San Francisco school authorities in regard to the Japanese,—so easily is a whole nation judged by the conduct of a portion of it, however small. The *Mémorial Diplomatique*, a Paris weekly journal of strong cosmopolitan spirit, writes thus of the San Francisco affair:

"The Japanese imagined, quite naively, that men are differentiated by their qualities. The North Americans reveal to them that the worth of a man is measured by his color. The most noble heart, the most marvelous genius, if he is brown, red or black, will be looked upon with sovereign contempt by the last of the cowboys of the Far West or of the street sweepers of New York, who has that quality of qualities, that of being white. It is foolish, it is barbarous; but that is the way it is. It is useless to seek to change this primitive cerebrality; it is innate; it is atavistic. It comes straight from the savage Aryans of India, whose songs, whose prayers repeat incessantly the superiority of the white man, boast in every line of the color, make pigment the criterion of the human species. Incurable monomania! Regrettable, furthermore, especially for the people of the United States, who, neces-

sarily, will one day have to bear the consequences of this intellectual inferiority."

Intellectual inferiority! Savage Aryans! That is the way in which the exclusion of the Japanese youth from the San Francisco schools has caused us to be talked about over the sea. And there is just enough truth in what this French journal sarcastically says to make it cut. For, whatever other elements there may be in it, there is not the least doubt that race prejudice—a strong undercurrent of it long known to exist—was to a considerable degree at the bottom of the action of the San Francisco school board. So far as this was the case, the action was un-American and unworthy, and deserves all the reprobation that it has received, both in Japan and elsewhere. The Japanese indignation over the event arose from this consideration. They know perfectly well that the Californians, a large section of them, do not want the Japanese among them. They believe that this exclusion of four or five hundred of their youth—there are not more than that—from the San Francisco native schools is but the beginning of a movement that would ultimately, if it could, permit no more Japanese to land on our western shores. It is not the mere segregation of their boys that has aroused their disappointment and their anger; it is the imputation of inferiority, of unworthiness to live and associate with white Americans. And this, coming at a time when they have shown such extraordinary capacity of progress in nearly every modern line, has wounded them to the very heart.

It will take the most careful handling to prevent this occurrence from resulting in a misunderstanding between the two nations that would be very unfortunate. The loss of trade resulting from a Japanese boycott of American goods, of which there has already been talk, would be the least of the evils growing from it. Japan has always considered us her best friend. She has learned many of her best lessons from us. Her young men have been sent to our schools, colleges and universities to receive the best that Western education can give them. To allow this high confidence to be broken would be a wound to civilization, to our own national honor and prestige also, that it would be difficult to heal. It must not be allowed to be made.

The course which the national government has taken in the matter is most praiseworthy. Secretary Root has hastened to assure the Japanese authorities that the California school board is not the whole

nation, and that the generous attitude of the American people as a whole toward the Japanese remains as it has always been. The President's investigation of the situation by a special commissioner has been eminently wise. We hope, and believe, that the final outcome will be an understanding and an arrangement for the Japanese pupils that will be just, and, at the same time, satisfactory to all concerned, and will strengthen rather than weaken the bonds of friendship and union between the two countries.

It must be confessed that in some of their contentions the San Francisco school authorities have reason on their side. It is very awkward to have adult foreigners just beginning their studies in classes with children ten years old or less. But special difficulties of this kind ought to be easily gotten over without depriving young Japanese boys of the great blessings which come to them, and to their nation, from pursuing their studies in our schools under the ordinary conditions. The conflict between the California State school laws and the national treaty with Japan,—a part of the supreme law of the land,—if such a conflict is proved to exist, must be settled in a manner to preserve to the Japanese, as a people, all the high rights and privileges which, by our own free determination, they have hitherto enjoyed. Anything less than this, at this advanced stage of civilization, would be in the highest degree discreditable to us as the leading democracy of the world. Whatever new treaty California Congressmen may propose to take the place of the present one, and to allow city school authorities to regulate the attendance of Japanese pupils, must be so guarded as not to permit a promiscuous school war throughout the country against the children of the East. The intelligence and the conscience of the American Congress and government may, we think, be trusted to prevent the essential injustice to the Japanese and the dishonor to our great country which some of the San Franciscans would not, we fear, hesitate to bring about.

### The International Union of the American Republics.

The important results of the third International American Conference, which was held at Rio Janeiro in July and August last, have not yet seemingly come to the knowledge of any considerable number of the people of this country. But they are gradually becoming known, and the more fully they are seen and understood, the greater their importance seems to be.

The Conference appears to have been less dramatic and sensational than the two which preceded it, if one may apply these terms to those historic gatherings. This was due in part to the better preparation of the program, from which all questions likely to produce serious division had been

eliminated, and in part to the natural development of the organization in clearness and intelligence.

From the articles by eye witnesses and participants which have appeared in the *Outlook*, the *Independent* and other journals, the practical results of the deliberations may be summed up as follows:

The arbitration resolution adopted approved of the general principle and practice of arbitration between the nations, and recommended that the delegates from the American states to the second Hague Conference be instructed to support "a general arbitration convention so effective and definite that, meriting the approval of the civilized world, it shall be accepted and put in force by every nation."

On the question of the settlement of pecuniary claims, the Conference recommended the extension for another five years (until December 31, 1912) of the treaty signed at the Mexican Conference five years ago. This treaty provided for the settlement of all questions of pecuniary claims by arbitration, and had been ratified by only six of the governments whose representatives had signed it at Mexico City.

The question of the forcible collection of public debts, one of the most delicate that came before the Conference, was disposed of by an agreement recommending to the governments represented "that they consider the advisability of inviting the second Peace Conference at The Hague to consider the question of the forcible collection of public debts and the best means tending to diminish conflicts which have their origin in pecuniary claims." In this way it was hoped to get action on the subject by all the powers, instead of leaving it to the American republics, most of which are debtor nations.

A general naturalization convention was adopted in accordance with the terms of which, if it shall be ratified, the American states will observe the rule that if a naturalized citizen returns to the country of his birth without the intention of going back to the land where he had been naturalized, and remains for two years, he shall be considered to have renounced his naturalized citizenship and resumed that of his native country.

A convention was agreed to, providing for the creation of a Commission on Public and Private International Law charged with the duty of formulating those principles of international law on which there is general agreement among the states of this hemisphere, and of studying those phases of international law, both public and private, on which differences of opinion exist, with the view of seeing if general rules on these also cannot be formulated for the conduct of the relations of the governments with one another.

A sanitation resolution was adopted providing for the establishment of an American Centre of Sanitary Information in the city of Montevideo, to have